

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3171

INFO USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

UNCLAS NAIROBI 4492

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, US, KE

SUBJECT: VISIT TO KENYA BY "FRIENDS OF AFRICA IN AMERICA"

REF: (A) USUN 1798, (NOTAL); (B) NAIROBI 4454, (NOTAL)

FOR AF/E

1. PLEASE TELEPHONE CLEMENT E. MEROWIT, DIRECTOR, FRIENDS OF AFRICA IN AMERICA (TARRYTOWN, N.Y., 914-631-5168), AND TELL HIM THAT TO DATE KENYAN GOVERNMENT HAS DONE NOTHING RPT NOTHING CONCRETE WITH RESPECT TO HIS REQUEST FOR GROUP PROGRAM IN KENYA. MEROWIT REPORTEDLY PLANNING TO LEAVE NEW YORK JUNE 4 EN ROUTE TO KENYA WITH GROUP EDUCATORS EXPECTING TO ENCOUNTER FULL PROGRAM PREARRANGED BY KENYAN MISSION TO UN.

2. EMBASSY COMMUNICATED MAY 30 WITH TWO KENYAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR MENTIONED REF A. THEY HAD NO WORD WHATEVER OF MEROWIT VISIT. IN EFFORT SALVAGE TRIP, EMBASSY WROTE LETTERS TO PAREMEET SINGH, WHO HANDLES PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR MINISTRY; TO KIMANI, PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER, MINISTRY EDUCATION; AND TO PROFESSOR MUNGAI, UNIVERSITY NAIROBI (WITH WHOM EMBOFF HAD

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ALREADY SPOKEN). WE HAVE NO ILLUSION THAT THESE

ELEVENTH-HOUR STEPS WILL SUBSTITUTE FOR APPARENT
INACTION TO DATE.

3. UPON RECEIPT TELEX FROM MEROWIT TODAY, EMBOFF ALSO
SPOKE WITH SAMUEL RUORO, HEAD OF PRESS AND
EXTERNAL PUBLICITY, FONOFF, WITH WHOM MEROWIT
APPARENTLY INITIATED TALK OF TRIP LAST SEPTEMBER
WHEN RUORO WAS PRESS OFFICER AT KENYAN UN MISSION
IN NEW YORK. RUORO STATED MEROWIT SHOULD HAVE KEPT
IN TOUCH WITH RUORO'S SUCCESSOR IN NEW YORK TO
CONFIRM EVENTS WHICH MEROWIT HAS PRESUMPTUOUSLY
(IN RUORO'S VIEW) PRINTED IN SCHEDULE. RUORO NOW
ATTEMPTING JERRY-BUILD SCHEDULE BUT EFFORTS HAVE
NOT BORNE VISIBLE FRUIT.

4. IN LETTER DATED MAY 26 TO CHARGE (RECEIVED
TODAY), MEROWIT EXPRESSED FEAR OVER POSSIBLE
EMBARRASSMENT TO HIM AND DISAPPOINTMENT TO HIS
GROUP IF SCHEDULE NOT ARRANGED AS ADVERTISED. IN
VIEW MANNER THIS TRIP HANDLED, WE BELIEVE MOST
MEROWIT CAN HOPE FOR IS HURRY-UP JOB OF SCHEDULE-
BUILDING BY KENYAN OFFICIALS IN CONSULTATION WITH
HIM AFTER ARRIVAL.
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